Supply of rice in Assam

1983. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the target of beneficiaries for providing rice @Rs. 3.00 per kilogram in Assam;

(b) the manner in which the scheme is to be implemented indicating the norms and forms thereof; and

(c) the other scheme for supplying free rice to senior citizens and the target in Assam indicating the norms and forms thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The estimated number of families to be benefited under AAY for Assam works out to 2,81,500. Antyodaya Anna Yojna contemplates identification of one crore poorest of the poor families out of a total 6.52 crore BPL families and to provide them 25 kgs of foodgrains at Rs. 2 a kg for wheat and Rs. 3 a kg for rice. The identification of Antyodaya beneficiries is the responsibility of the State Government/UT Administrations. They have been advised to finalise the list of Antyodaya families by involving Panchayat Raj Institutions/local bodies. Government of India makes allocation of foodgrains after receiving the reports regarding completion of task of identification and issues of distinctive ration cards to the beneficiaries.

(c) The Annapurna Scheme which was launched with effect from 1st April 2000 aims at providing food security to meet the requirement of those senior citizens who thought eligible have remained uncovered under the national Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS). The scheme is targeted to cover, 20% of persons eligible to receive pension under NOAPS numbering about 13.762 lakh. As per the guidelines of the programme, the beneficiaries should not be in receipt of pension either under the NOAPS or any State Pension Scheme. The beneficiaries are given 10 kg. of foodgrains per head per month free of cost. The beneficiary must be the age of 65 years or above and must be a destitute *i.e.* having no regular means of

subsistence from his/her own source of income or through financial support from family member or other sources.

Funds are released to the States which in turn release the same to the respective State Department of Food & Civil Supplies (F&CS). At the State level, the Food & Civil Supplies Departments purchase the foodgrains from the Food Corporation of India (FCI), at BPL rates and supply foodgrains at district Level from their designated depots. At district level, the scheme is implemented by the District Collector/Chief Executive officer (CEO) of the Zilla Panchayat. The Collector/CEO arranges for distribution of the foodgrains through the network of Fair Price Shops under the Targeted Public Distribution System. The beneficiaries under the scheme are identified by the Gram Sabhas and the Gram Panchayats distribute the entitlement cards to the beneficiaries which entitles them to receive the foodgrains.

During the year 2000-2001, Rs. 577.63 lakhs have been released to Assam under Annapurna Scheme. As per the report received so far, no foodgrains have been lifted by the State Government. The allocation for the State for the current year has also been kept at Rs. 577.63 lakh. No releases have been made during the current year as the State Government has not reported an expenditure of 75% of available funds, as required in terms of the guidelines for the scheme.

Payment of dues to farmers of Dharvar by FCI

1984. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India owes huge amount to the farmers of the taluks of the Dharvar District of Karnataka, if so, the amount due and since when it is pending; and

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken to see that the amount is paid to the farmers at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has not purchased maize directly from the farmers in